

# REPORT

OF

Brigadier Genl A. J. PLEASANTON,

COMMANDING THE

Home Guard of the City of Philadelphia,

TO THE

HON. ALEXANDER HENRY, MAYOR,

DESCRIBING THE

OPERATIONS OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE OF COUNCILS ON THE DEFENCE  
AND PROTECTION OF THE CITY, AND THE PROGRESS MADE IN  
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HOME GUARD.

FOR THE YEAR 1861.



PHILADELPHIA:

RINGWALT & BROWN, PRINTERS, 34 S. THIRD STREET.

1862.



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## REPORT.

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The following is Brigadier Gen'l PLEASANTON'S First Annual Report of the operations of the Committee on Defence and Protection of the City, with which he is associated. The Report is an appendix to Mayor HENRY'S message to the Councils:

HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD, }  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13, 1862. }

To the HON. ALEXANDER HENRY,

*Mayor of the City of Philadelphia:*

DEAR SIR: In compliance with your request of the 9th instant, to be furnished "with such information relative to the proceedings and expenditures of the Committee on Defence during the past year as may, with propriety, be appended to your [my] annual message to the City Councils," I have the honor to make the following report—viz:

The assault upon Fort Sumpter and its subsequent capture, in April last, awakened the loyal people of the North from their political lethargy, and disclosed to them the fact that rebellion was a reality, and not a menace.

The President of the United States issued his proclamation on the 15th of April, calling into activity 75,000 volunteers; and thereupon the Gov. of Pennsylvania ordered into service, among others, Major Gen. Patterson and the volunteer regiments of the First Division of Pennsylvania Militia. This requisition stripped Philadelphia of its organized military force; and the sense of insecurity which the departure of the troops of the First Division aroused, prompted the municipal authorities to encourage and direct the immediate organization of a special military force that would

be adequate to the protection of the City, and that should not be liable to be withdrawn from it, except for its own defence upon any of the approaches thereto.

On the 20th of April, 1861, I was honored and duly commissioned by you, under the authority of an ordinance of Councils, as the Commander of the Home Guard of the City of Philadelphia, and was authorized "forthwith to organize, under the direction of the Mayor, a force, to be composed of the residents of Philadelphia, for cavalry, artillery, infantry, and light infantry service."

The Councils of the City, by an ordinance for the protection and defence of the City, approved April 19, 1861, had appointed a Committee of five members from each Chamber to assist the Mayor in carrying out the provisions of that ordinance, and by supplements thereto, have invested the said joint select committee with plenary powers to effectuate the objects of their appointment.

On the 16th May, 1861, the Governor approved "a bill relating to the Home Guard of the City of Philadelphia," which had been enacted by the Legislature of the State at its extra session, delegating to the Councils of Philadelphia "the high legislative prerogative to create and organize a Home Guard, which shall consist of such companies and regiments of volunteer soldiers as are now, or may be, organized for the defence of the said City, provided the same shall not exceed ten thousand men."

This power granted to the Councils was accepted by them in a "further supplement to an ordinance to provide for the defence and protection of the City," approved April 19, 1861, which was approved May 23, 1861, and the Home Guard, organized under the provisions of that ordinance, was ordained by them to be the Home Guard which the Councils of Philadelphia are empowered to create and organize by the act of the General Assembly relating thereto, approved May 16, 1861.

The accompanying Report, marked A, exhibits the plan of organization as the same has been adopted.

The great deficiency of ordnance, arms, equipments, and munitions of war, not merely in this State, but also in the Government arsenals, imposed upon the Committee of Defence the urgent necessity of an immediate supply thereof by purchase.



Inquiries and applications were made everywhere throughout the Northern States, and in Canada and New Brunswick, and communications were also had with several countries in Europe, with a view to procure them; but, as much time was consumed in these researches, application was made to the Secretary of War for a loan of 5,000 Government muskets until the City could obtain by purchase the required number. The request was promptly granted, and that number of arms was placed in the Arsenal at Frankford, subject to the order of the Mayor. Only 3,800 of these muskets, however, were drawn from the Arsenal by the Mayor, and were used by the Home Guard until a demand for a return to the Government was made by the Chief of Ordnance on the 9th of October last; since which time the greater part of them has been sent back to the Frankford Arsenal, and the remainder of them is now in the course of collection for the same purpose.

In the meantime, the Committee of Defence was industriously occupied in procuring the necessary information in regard to prices, qualities, and patterns of arms and equipments. The great demand for arms existing simultaneously in all the States, enhanced their prices—and to secure arms at all it became necessary to purchase them of different patterns; by which the City has become the owner of smooth-bored and rifled Prussian muskets, English Enfield rifles, with sabre and triangular bayonets, and muskets of United States patterns.

These arms have all been subjected to a rigorous inspection by a competent armorer, and were approved by him before they were purchased by the City, and are serviceable weapons. The principal inconvenience that will attend a difference of patterns and bores in these small arms, will be in the preparation of various kinds of ammunition for them, and the risk of confusion in its issue, if they should be required in action.

Two batteries of Parrott's rifled cannon, each of six guns, have been purchased by the Committee; one battery being of 10-pounders, the other of 20-pounders. Both of these batteries can take the field at once.

There are also two cast-steel Prussian rifled guns, which were presented to the City by Mr. James Swaim; the gun carriages and caissons for which have been bought by the Committee.

Mr. I. McHenry, of Liverpool, has also generously presented to the City a east-steel rifled gun of the Blakely pattern, the carriage and caisson for which Mr. Henry Simon has patriotically tendered as a gift to the City.

These last mentioned guns will require harness for their horses, and ammunition to be specially prepared for them. Accompanying is a statement by the Committee of their expenditures for the year 1861.

On the 4th of July last there were enrolled in the Home Guard some 5,000 men, about one-half of the full number contemplated by the Act of Assembly.

The mustering of regiments for active service in the field has interfered greatly with the enrolment of men for the Home Guard, in two ways—viz: *First*—by their natural preference for active service. *Second*—by the inducements held out to instructed members of the Home Guard to be discharged from it, and to enter into active service. By this latter mode, the Home Guard has lost some two thousand men who have left it to serve in the field, in various capacities, from colonels of regiments to lieutenants of companies; illustrating, however, in the clearest manner, the great value of the Home Guard as a school of instruction preparatory to active service.

While this diminution of the Home Guard, however, has been in progress, a compensating addition to it in new members has accompanied it; and, at the present time, there are some 4,000 enrolled men in its ranks, organized into three regiments of infantry of the line, two battalions of rifles, three companies of artillery, and one squadron of cavalry.

In August last, when much anxiety was felt for the safety of Washington City, the Governor called upon me for information of the number of troops I could detach from the Home Guard for service there. On assembling the officers to ascertain the number, the response was patriotic, and that all would go. A tender of immediate service for three months of one regiment of infantry, one battalion of rifles, one squadron of cavalry, and one company of artillery, together numbering fifteen hundred men, was, however, deemed sufficient for the emergency, and was accordingly



made to the Government, but the Secretary of War declined their services for so short a period of time.

The Home Guard, to be efficient, should be frequently drilled in squadrons, batteries, battalions, and evolutions of the line. For these instructions there is no suitable ground at the command of this force. I respectfully recommend, therefore, that a proper drill ground for such purposes be placed by the City under the control of the Commander of the Home Guard.

There should also be adequate inducements held out to the members of this force to attend punctually at all drills for instruction in their military duties. At present, these men can ill afford to devote half a day once or twice a week to these duties, thereby sacrificing their time or their wages in preparing themselves to protect lives or property in which they have no immediate interest; while the persons or property so protected contribute neither personal service nor pecuniary means to their own or to its security. This is a subject very suggestive, and which cannot be too soon considered and satisfactorily arranged.

The population of the City of Philadelphia may be estimated at 600,000 persons, of which one-fifth is capable of bearing arms, being 120,000 men. Of these, 30,000 are either now in the army or temporarily absent, leaving about 90,000 men fit for military duty.

The assessed value of real estate and of various kinds of personal property within the City for the year 1862 is represented, from official returns, as follows, viz:

Real estate, \$152,684,600; moneys at interest, \$12,005,879; furniture, \$1,784,130; horses, \$467,323; carriages, \$231,436; emoluments of office, \$60,400; watches, \$3,437; personal, \$27,459.50; exempt, \$10,879,102—amounting together to one hundred and seventy-eight millions one hundred and forty-three thousand seven hundred and sixty-six dollars and fifty cents. (\$178,143,766.50.) The banking capital amounts to some twelve millions more, while the annual products of the industry of this population are of infinite value to the City, State, and to the General Government.

The simple question now is, so to organize as many of these 90,000 men, instruct and discipline them as to insure the safety of the remaining population of 570,000, and this aggregate property

of hundreds of millions of dollars. To do this, it will cost some money—but not to do it, will cost a thousand times more. This City is accessible both by the river and by the land, and without preparation for resistance it invites invasion, which, if this war should last throughout the present year, is almost sure to come.

The *imbroglio* with the British Government arising out of the capture of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, attracted the attention of the Committee of Defence to the exposed condition of this City to the risks of a naval attack by a hostile maritime Power; and they appointed a sub-committee of their body, consisting of Messrs. J. P. Wetherill, Henry Davis, and George W. Simmons, to accompany me to Washington, to confer with the Government of the United States, on the subject of the defences of the Delaware river and bay. An invitation was extended to Messrs. S. V. Merriek and Tatham, members of a Committee of the Board of Trade of this City, charged with a similar duty, to unite their application with that of the Committee of Defence. The two Committees were combined, and visited Washington, where they had conferences with the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, and with Generals Totten and Ripley of the Engineer and Ordnance Departments of the army, on the subjects of their mission.

All of these officers manifested an interest in the defences of Philadelphia, but lamented their inability to do anything further in the matter without additional appropriations of money by Congress. They, however, concurred in the suggestions expressed by the committee, that steam floating iron-clad vessels, heavily armed, should be combined with the permanent fortifications now on the river, and with others to be constructed, for the complete defence of the river and bay—and they approved of an application to be made to Congress by the Committee for appropriations for these objects.

These interviews having occurred during the Christmas holidays, when Congress was not transacting business, the Committees returned to Philadelphia, having previously delegated to me, as their chairman, the duty of making the required application to Congress.

This was accordingly done on the 2d instant, by a bill introduced at my request by the Hon. William D. Kelley into the House of

Representatives, entitled "a bill for the defence of the City of Philadelphia, the River Delaware, and the Harbor of Refuge at the Delaware Breakwater."

This bill was duly referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, who have it yet under consideration.

Accompanying, marked C, are a copy of this bill, and a copy of the correspondence that I have held in relation to it, with the Engineer Department, and the Hon. William D. Kelley.

In the early part of last summer, I recommended that a military reconnoissance of the country lying west and south of the City, bounded by the valley of the Susquehanna river from its junction with the Juniata river—the Eastern shore of the Chesapeake bay, as far as the Chesapeake and Delaware canal—along that canal to the Delaware river, and thence up to this City—should be made, with a view to the greater security and protection of Philadelphia. In September last, the Committee on Defence adopted the recommendation, and the Mayor was requested to have it made. This reconnoissance, under the direction of the Mayor, has been made by Colonel C. M. Eakin, of the Reserve Brigade, a distinguished scientific officer, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and whose long service with the corps of United States Topographical Engineers, and on the Coast Survey, peculiarly fitted him for this duty.

Colonel Eakin was assisted therein by Captain Strickland Kneass, assistant engineer of the Home Guard, Mr. John A. Sheaff, and others. His report has been submitted to me, and is a most valuable contribution to our topographical descriptions of the vicinity of Philadelphia.

The maps explanatory of the reconnoissance are in the process of execution in the office of the City Surveyor, and should be completed with the least possible delay. A letter from Colonel Eakin, in relation thereto, is submitted herewith, in copy marked D.

In examining the subject of home defence, we must attentively consider the circumstances in which we are placed, and prominent among these is that of neighborhood; and, whether hostile or friendly, powerful or feeble. Our nearest hostile neighbor is Virginia, whose Governor (Letcher) in his message to the Legislature at Richmond, in December last, announced that Virginia at that

time had seventy thousand men, with three hundred and fifteen pieces of field artillery in service, not computing five batteries of six-pounder guns and several thousand muskets which she had sent to Tennessee; three thousand muskets to Maryland; two rifled cannon and five hundred muskets to Missouri, and other thousands of muskets, with heavy ordnance and ammunition, captured at Norfolk and sent to various Southern States for their sea-coast and river defence.

These arms are, therefore, exclusive of the 2,500 heavy ship's guns, with the armament of five large ships-of-war, also captured at Norfolk; and of the enormous deposit of naval munitions and stores of every kind contained in the magazines, at that naval depot, at the time of its capture.

On our northern frontier lies Canada, which, though not at this time hostile, can scarcely be called friendly; and, although she is not powerful in herself, yet the immense military and naval resources of Great Britain upon which she could draw, would make her a very formidable enemy.

The Governor of Pennsylvania in his recent message to the Legislature, reports that Pennsylvania has now on hand 62 pieces of artillery, of which 17 need repairs, leaving 45 cannon for the defence of the State.

She has 26,753 muskets and rifles, 1,906 sabres and swords, 1,987 pistols, and a large amount of accoutrements and ammunition at Harrisburg.

The City of Philadelphia has, moreover, 6 Parrott rifled ten-pounder guns, and 6 Parrott rifled twenty-pounder guns; 2 cast-steel Prussian rifled six-pounder guns, and one English cast-steel six pounder rifled gun, and 2 twelve-pounder howitzers of the Dahlgren pattern—making together 17 cannon. She has also 4,976 muskets and rifles, 440 sabres, 326 pistols, with a small supply of ammunition, and infantry and rifle accoutrements for 6,000 men.

The total of artillery in the State, now serviceable, is 62 field-pieces, but no siege, nor garrison, nor sea-coast guns, howitzers, or mortars of large size.

The forts on and in the Delaware river are not yet armed, and the harbor at the Breakwater is open alike to friend or foe.



The State has in service 93,577 men, and 16,038 more are preparing for it, making in all 109,038 men.

The Adjutant General of New York officially reports that New York has on hand in service with her troops, 7 nine-pounders, 70 six-pounders, 1 twenty-four-pounder howitzer, 8 twelve-pounder howitzers, 15 mountain howitzers, 11,014 percussion muskets, 464 flint muskets, 145 flint rifles, 1,917 percussion rifles, 502 artillery sabres, 666 swords, 1,505 non-commissioned officers' swords, 926 cavalry sabres, 171 carbines; leaving in the State 106 six-pounder guns, 10 twenty-pounder Parrott guns, 18 ten-pounder Parrott guns, 13,149 percussion muskets, 324 flint muskets, 45 flint rifles, 5,924 percussion rifles, with a few sabres and swords. The Adjutant General of New York claims to have in service 120,000 men.

Pennsylvania and New York united have only 196 pieces of field artillery, and no siege, garrison, or sea-coast guns, heavy howitzers, or mortars.

While Virginia, alone, has nearly twice as many field pieces, with much of the plunder of the Norfolk Navy Yard, and her towns and rivers well covered with entrenchments armed with the heaviest batteries. Almost every sea-port town with 20,000 inhabitants, from Maine to the Rio Grande, is better defended in its approaches from the sea than is the City of Philadelphia. Whoever may be responsible for this destitution, the question arises, shall this defenceless condition of our City continue? Will you trust to the forbearance of European Governments not to intervene in our affairs, when the most overpowering commercial necessities urge them to it?

Will you rely upon your present miserable armament, which an active campaign of three months might damage or destroy, leaving you unable to arm the thousands of your gallant sons who would rush to your succor? Will you reckon upon aid from other friendly States, which will be fully occupied with their own affairs when you might need their assistance?

If this is to be the policy of the City and State, there will be no sympathy anywhere for their people when the ruin and desolation which will certainly follow it shall be upon them.

I have thus, as concisely as possible, exhibited the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee of Councils on the Defence and

Protection of the City, and the progress that has been made in the organization of the Home Guard.

Though much has been done, more remains to do, and while I accord to the Committee great praise for what they have done, recognizing fully their unwearied patience, their desire to be fully informed of whatever was best adapted for the defence of the City, and their readiness to apply it; their anxiety in all their contracts to protect the public interests, and to prevent a misapplication or a waste of the public money; and, while my personal relations with each and all of them have been to me of the most cordial and agreeable kind, I desire to impress upon them, upon the Councils, and upon your Honor, as the Chief Magistrate of this great City, a full consciousness of the great responsibility which will rest upon you all, if this present state of helplessness and feebleness, and want of preparation for defence, shall continue to exist, and any disaster to the City should result therefrom.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. PLEASANTON,

*Brigadier Gen'l Commanding Home Guard.*



## APPENDIX.

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(A)

### ORGANIZATION OF THE HOME GUARD.

HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD, }  
City of Philadelphia. }

*To the Chairman of the Sub-Committee of the Joint Select Committee of Councils for Defence and Protection:*

SIR : I would respectfully suggest, for the consideration of the Committee, that the Home Guard, for the protection and defence of the City of Philadelphia, as I have proposed to organize it, should be constituted as follows, viz :

One Regiment of Cavalry,

Two Regiments of Artillery, to each of which will be attached a field battery of six rifled cannon,

Five Regiments of Infantry of the Line,

One Regiment of Light Infantry,

One Regiment of Rifles,

In all, ten regiments—

To be divided into two corps, viz :

1st. The Old Guard, consisting of

Four Regiments of Infantry of the Line,

One Regiment of Artillery, with one field battery of six rifled cannon,

To be considered the permanent local force, and to have in charge the peace and security of the City in all times of excitement and popular commotion, and to be distributed throughout the City so as to cover and protect its most exposed and threatened localities.

This force should be held in readiness, at a given signal, to assemble immediately in positions previously assigned to it, so as to be within supporting distance of its several regiments, and to maintain the public order and tranquility within such designated limits.

- 2d. The active, or Young Guard, consisting of  
 One Regiment of Cavalry,  
 One Regiment of Artillery, with a field battery of six rifled cannon,  
 One Regiment of Infantry of the Line,  
 One Regiment of Light Infantry,  
 One Regiment of Rifles—in all five regiments—

will compose the movable force to be employed in suppressing any popular disturbance within the City, and besides, to be used in conjunction with the troops of the United States or of the State, or alone, if none such shall be at hand, in protecting the approaches to the City on any side of it, and in repelling assaults that may be made thereon from any quarter.

The two corps may be advantageously employed, under certain circumstances, in reciprocal duties. It is important, nay, indispensable to the success of this organization, that both of these corps should be placed as rapidly as possible in the highest state of discipline and efficiency of which they may be susceptible; and for this purpose, that they shall be governed in their discipline, as far as may be applicable to them, by the rules and regulations of the Army of the United States.

The area to be defended, the population to be protected in its honest industrial pursuits, and the immense capital exposed within our City limits, in my judgment will not justify the organization of a smaller force.

Very nearly that number is now reported to be enrolled in the Home Guard, and large outlays of money have already been made by our citizens in contracts for uniforms, pay of instructors in drill, rent of armories, &c., in aid of this organization.

The public sentiment, in harmony with my own, demands the creation of this amount of force.

The staff for its government should be adequate to the important duties entrusted to it, and should be organized on a plan conformable to that of the Army of the United States for a force of the strength named.

The uniforms will be supplied by the members of the Home Guard themselves, and at their own expense. Arms, equipments and munitions of war will be furnished by the City.

A military hospital department has been already organized, under my direction, for the use of the Home Guard, and is now in operation. This has been done without material expense to the City, and mainly by the benevolent contributions of our fellow-citizens, more especially of our ladies, whose efforts have been unceasing to promote in every way the comforts and alleviate the sufferings of our gallant soldiery.

The use of the hospital has been tendered to the United States for the treatment of their sick and wounded soldiers and sailors, and has been accepted by Major General Patterson, and already many of these patients have been successfully treated there, while quite a number still remain to receive that care and attention for which our City has been always famed.

Dr. John Neil, the medical director, and the medical gentlemen of his staff, deserve great praise for the prompt and efficient organization of this valuable hospital. I have every reason to believe that it will be self-sustaining.

Recently, when the Government of the United States was unable to establish sufficient garrisons at Forts Delaware and Mifflin, and the naval magazine, I caused (upon the application of Captain Dupont, commanding the navy yard, and of Major General Patterson, commanding this department,) detachments to be made from the Home Guard to garrison the said works. The tranquilizing effects of this act upon the public mind is but another evidence of the immense value, both to the City and General Government, of our Home Guard. All of which is respectfully submitted by

A. J. PLEASANTON,

*Commanding Home Guard.*

PHILADELPHIA, May 21, 1861.

OFFICE OF COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND PROTECTION, }  
PHILADELPHIA, May 25th, 1861. }

BRIGADIER GEN'L A. J. PLEASANTON,

*Commanding Home Guard:*

GENERAL: At a meeting of the Committee on Defence and Protection of the City, the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the report of General Pleasonton in regard to the formation of the Home Guard, be approved, and the plan presented by him, be adopted.

Respectfully,  
(Signed,) JOHN P. WETHERILL,  
*Chairman of Committee.*

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(B)

## QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT OF TOTAL EXPENSES.

The following is a schedule of the full amounts expended by the Committee on Defence and Protection, furnished to us by the Quartermaster :

J. C. Grubb & Co., for arms.....	\$45,073 28
H. Boker & Co., for arms.....	15,729 00
J. Krider, for ammunition.....	1,402 31
T. Sparks, for ammunition.....	1,500 00
Parrott & Co., for cannon.....	2,028 00
F. W. Parmenter, for gun carriages, &c.....	11,922 34
J. F. McLaughlin, for harness.....	8,008 32
S. R. Phillips, for accoutrements.....	21,042 50
G. F. Heppard, for sergeants' swords.....	875 00
H. Peacock, for frogs for swords.....	180 00
A. Wurfflein, for inspecting arms.....	1,507 29
Sundry parties, for cartridge boxes, caps, &c.....	333 60
W. P. Uhlinger & Co., for drums, &c.....	275 00
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Total for arms and ammunition.....	\$109,877 34
Allowance made of \$100 to each company Philadelphia Home Guards..	4,025 00
Reinforcing Forts Mifflin and Delaware.....	2,102 12
Pay roll " ".....	3,000 00
Parade, July 4 .....	618 98
Office expenses Home Guard.....	442 52
Freight on guns, gun carriages, &c.....	350 71
J. Friend, watchman military stores.....	121 13
Traveling expenses Home Guard.....	339 01
Music.....	518 00
Military reconnoissance.....	770 30
Gas bills and expenses for volunteers in United States service.....	789 33
Expenses of Hospital.....	743 12
Hire of carriages and artillery horses.....	614 60
Advertising, printing, and stationery....	1,113 47
<hr/>	
Total to November 6, 1861, ( <i>carried forward</i> ,).....	\$125,427 63

Total to November 6, 1861, ( <i>brought forward</i> ),.....	\$125,427 63
J. C. Grubb & Co., for rifles, &c.....	6,862 88
Military reconnoissance.....	872 79
A. Wurfflein, inspecting and repairing arms.....	520 39
Parrott & Co., 20-pounder Parrott cannon, &c.....	3,720 00
J. W. Price, rations.....	196 50
Printing and advertising.....	166 92
Cleaning harness and labor at Arsenal.....	205 97
Watching magazine and carriage hire.....	107 00
Overcoats and pants.....	598 50
Ammunition and hospital account.....	86 75
Office expenses and postages.....	55 70
Artillery drills.....	984 15
Parham, orderly, and Friend, watchman.....	80 00
Freight on artillery, &c.....	141 92
Music and musical instruments.....	168 00
Gas bill, Mantua Company.....	18 00
Total to January 22, 1862.....	\$140,213 10

(C)

## JUDGE KELLEY'S BILL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FORTS, Etc.

The following is a copy of a bill presented to Congress, for the defence of Philadelphia, January 2, 1862, by the Hon. William D. Kelley, of Philadelphia:

### *A Bill for the Defence of the City of Philadelphia, the River Delaware, and the Harbor of Refuge, at Delaware Breakwater.*

*Be it enacted, etc.,* That the sum of twelve hundred thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money that may be now or hereafter in the Treasury of the United States, for the construction, armament, and supply of a suitable number of floating iron-clad steam batteries, for the defence of the Delaware river and bay. The number, plan, armament, and construction of the same to be determined by the Secretary of the Navy, and to be finished with the least possible delay.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money that may be now or hereafter in the Treasury of the United States, to be expended, under the direction of the Secretary of War, in the purchase of a site or sites for, and the construction of, suitable works of defence for the Harbor of Refuge made by the Delaware Breakwater in Delaware Bay, the said works of defence to be commenced and finished with the least possible delay.



## APPLICATION TO THE ENGINEER BUREAU.

WILLARD'S HOTEL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 2, 1862. }

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,

*Chief Engineer, U. S. A., Washington, D. C.*

GENERAL: In pursuance of the objects of my mission, and in accordance with the wishes of the government of the City of Philadelphia, I have caused to be presented in the House of Representatives a bill making appropriations specially for the defence of the River Delaware and the Harbor of Refuge created by the Delaware Breakwater.

This bill has been referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and to-day, in conversation with the member of that committee having this subject in charge, in explanation of the objects of the bill, he expressed the wish to be informed if the Engineer Department had recommended the construction of defences on the land to cover and protect the said Breakwater and its Harbor. As in my conversation with you on that subject, a few days since, you expressed yourself in favor of the construction of the said land defences for the said Breakwater and Harbor, will you, in your reply to this note, be so good as to express your opinion and recommendation thereof in writing, so that in that form they may be presented for the consideration of the Committee on Military Affairs in the House?

Accompanying I submit for your information a copy of the bill for the above-mentioned and other objects, as the same has been referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

In connection with this subject, may I so far trouble you as to ask to be informed what number of guns it is intended to mount on the various harbor defences in and around New York harbor and on the East river, as well as the number of guns for the protection of Boston and its vicinity?

If it will not incommode you I will esteem it a particular favor to receive your answer to-day.

I have the honor to be, General, very respectfully yours,

A. J. PLEASANTON,

*Chairman of the Joint Select Committees of the Councils and of the Board of Trade of the City of Philadelphia.*



## REPLY OF GENERAL TOTTEN.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT, }  
WASHINGTON, January 3, 1862. }

To A. J. PLEASANTON,

*Chairman, &c., Willard's Hotel, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: I have just received your letter of the 2d instant, and hasten to reply.

The construction of suitable works of defence for the Harbor of Refuge made by the Delaware Breakwater, in Delaware bay, is fully approved by this Department.

The sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars is a suitable and moderate amount to be appropriated, as soon as possible, for the commencement of such defences.

The defensive works now complete, or under construction, for the protection of New York, including the inner Harbor, the approach by Long Island Sound, the approach by the Narrows, and the anchorage near Sandy Hook, are ready to mount about one thousand guns. The number will be increased as further progress may be made.

The defences of Boston harbor are now ready to receive three hundred and thirty guns. The number will probably be increased by spring to four hundred and thirty and further as labor shall progress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOS. G. TOTTEN,

*Brevet Brigadier General and Chief Engineer.*

HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD, }  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, January 4, 1862. }

To THE HON. WM. D. KELLEY,

*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SIR: \* \* \* Allow me here to tender to you my sincere acknowledgments for the courtesy extended to me, personally, and also for the attentive and respectful consideration be-

stowed by you on the objects of my mission to Washington, viz: the defences of Philadelphia, and its river approaches. In my interview with Mr. ———, he told me that he would recommend to the Military Committee to report the bill you had introduced for the defences of the river Delaware, &c., increasing, however, the appropriation asked for the fortifications to be erected for the defence of the Breakwater and its Harbor, as General Totten, in his letter to me on the subject, thought that the sum of \$150,000 was too moderate.

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These appropriations, however important to Philadelphia, are of vital consequence to the Government of the United States in its occupation of Washington, and in its military and naval operations in Eastern Virginia, and along the Southern seaboard.

A glance at the map will disclose the fact that a hostile fleet at the Delaware Breakwater, with another in Lynhaven Bay, just inside the Capes of Virginia, would effectually interrupt all communication from New York, New England, and all other maritime ports, by sea, with the Potomac river and the Chesapeake bay.

Philadelphia, at the same time, would be blockaded in its own river, and if, with a land force put ashore from this fleet, a *coup de main* upon it should be successful, the war in the South, east of the Alleghanies, would be brought to a close at once; and the Government would also be forced to evacuate Washington forthwith, from the impossibility of procuring supplies there, as nothing could be got from the West by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, now greatly injured in many places; as Maryland furnishes little or nothing; and as the resources of New York and New England would be cut off by the occupation of the Delaware river and bay, and the consequent destruction of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and of the railroad from Wilmington to the Susquehanna river. A large supply of powder also would fail by the destruction of Dupont's powder works, near Wilmington.

There is no point on this continent, at this time, of such value to the Government of the United States, nor whose loss would entail such disastrous consequences to the whole country, in its civil, military, and naval operations, as the City of Philadelphia.

The occupation of Lynhaven Bay by a hostile squadron would blockade the sea approaches to Washington, Annapolis, and Baltimore, and would cut off supplies to Fortress Monroe and Hampton Roads; and the surrender of that important fortress would be simply a question of time, and without firing a shot, depending merely on the quantity of provisions and water with which it might be supplied at the moment of the occupation of Lynhaven Bay by an enemy's fleet.

These considerations are so momentous, that I conceive that it is only necessary to present them to Congress to insure the prompt passage of the bill you have introduced, and relying fully upon your most active co-operation in what so nearly concerns us all, I remain, my dear sir, your much obliged and obedient servant,

A. J. PLEASANTON,  
*Brigadier Gen. Commanding Home Guard.*

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## MILITARY RECONNOISSANCE.

PHILADELPHIA, January, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor to hand you herewith the report of the military reconnoissance of the Susquehanna river and of the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, between the mouth of the river and Chesapeake City; thence along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to Delaware City, and also of the roads and country comprised between the river, the canal, and a line drawn from Duncan's Island to Philadelphia.

The map of the river, in four sheets, on a scale of two inches to the mile, and the several topographical sketches taken near the fords, are being prepared in the office of the Chief Engineer and Surveyor of the City. That officer, having been lately very much engaged with his official duties, has been unable to give his attention to the early completion of the map.

On the published county maps, accompanying this, all the explored roads are drawn in red, so as to readily and quickly distinguish them from the other roads. It will be seen that all the

most important ones leading from the river, as high as Duncan's Island, have been examined and described. It would have been desirable that a few others connecting the main roads had also been explored, so as to have had a thorough reconnoissance of the country; but the limited expenditure for the work prevented so desirable an object. What is here presented, however, it is believed will be found of some service in enabling the authorities to prepare, at different points, for the repulse of an invading foe.

The natural defensible positions on nearly all the roads have been given at the end of their description, except those examined by Mr. Sheaff, who has underlined those points in the body of his description of the roads.

Captain Kneass, of the Home Guard Engineer Corps, one of my assistants, was compelled to leave the reconnoissance on the 19th of October on account of his official duties in Philadelphia requiring his presence there; and Lieut. Field, of the Reserved Brigade, was also called away from the work on the 11th of Nov. by important private affairs, leaving Mr. Sheaff and myself to finish the reconnoissance. The withdrawal of those gentlemen, especially of the first, somewhat crippled the efficiency of the party, and delayed the time of the completion of the work. My field work was completed on the 25th of November, and Mr. Sheaff's on the 11th of December—since that time we have been closely engaged embodying the subjects of our notes.

At the end of the report is placed an index, where will be seen at once the page where the desired section of the river, or the description of a road to be examined, is to be found.

The shore of the Delaware river from Delaware City to Philadelphia was not examined, as directed in my instruction, because on reaching Delaware City, I was informed that Captain Davidson, of the Topographical Engineer Corps, who had left the day before my arrival, had been engaged for several weeks, by order of the United States Government, in making a reconnoissance and survey of that very shore. I, therefore, thought it unnecessary and a waste of time to go over the same ground again, and on informing you of this, you coincided in opinion with me, and directed me to go on at once with the reconnoissance of the interior.

You will oblige me by ascertaining from the Mayor whether it is his desire that my duties should cease upon the presentation of the report, although the maps to accompany it are not completed.

I will, upon being so informed, consider myself no longer on duty.

Very Respectfully,

Your Ob't Servant,

C. M. EAKIN,

*Col. Third Regiment, Reserve Brigade.*

BRIGADIER GEN. A. J. PLEASANTON,

*Commanding Home Guard, Philad'a.*







